

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 CAIRO 15271 132052Z  
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 ONY-00 /011 W  
-----081373 132055Z /62 R  
R 131638Z SEP 77  
FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9394

C O N F I D E N T I A L CAIRO 15271

STADIS////////////////////////////////////

E.O. 11652: N/A  
TAGS: ELAB, EG  
SUBJECT: EGYPTIAN-U.S. TRADE UNION RELATIONS

NEA/RA FOR HOLLY FROM BROD

REF: (A) STATE 215729, (B) STATE 217647

1. AGREE THAT INVITATION TO SAAD AHMED TO AFL-CIO CONVENTION  
MAY BE OF SOME HELP IN BREAKING LOG JAM IN USG-EFL RELATIONS.  
WILL MAKE AHMED AWARE OF INVITATION AND ADVISE ASAP.

2. SOME OTHER OBSERVATIONS IN ORDER. FIRST, WISH TO POINT  
OUT THAT INVITATION COULD BACKFIRE IF IT LEADS TO DEAD END,  
IF HE HEARS AFL-CIO DRAG ARABS THROUGH THICKET OF PRO-  
ISRAELI RHETORIC (AFL-CIO HABIT), OR IF HE DECIDES TO MAKE  
MILITANT NOISES ABOUT ISRAEL (TEMPTING FOR EGYPTIAN CON-  
SUMPTION). ALSO, SHOULD BE RECALLED THAT, FOR REASONS IN-  
TEND TO REVIEW WITH YOU FULLY IN ROME AND TUNIS, AHMED HAS  
NOT BEEN BOOSTER OF U.S. HE IS NOT PERSON, DESPITE HIS  
OFFICE, WE WOULD HAVE CHOSEN AS CHANNEL FOR AFL-CIO FEELERS.  
WE FORESEE POSSIBILITY THAT AHMED WILL REJECT INVITATION  
AND DISCOURAGE PARTICIPATION OF SUBSTITUTE. ON OTHER  
HAND, OF COURSE, LRO WOULD MAKE SURE THAT STORY GOT AROUND  
AND PLACED ONUS OF OBSTRUCTIONISM ON AHMED.

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3. WISH ALSO TO SAY AGAIN, AS PLAN TO DO IN TUNIS TO  
CONFERENCE PARTICIPANTS, THAT WE RECOGNIZE OUR PURPOSE  
CANNOT AT THIS TIME BE ACTIVELY ENCOURAGE FORGING OF  
"FRATERNAL" LINKS BETWEEN U.S. AND EGYPTIAN LABOR, HOWEVER  
DESIRABLE THAT MIGHT BE IN PRINCIPLE. OBVIOUSLY THIS IS  
PREMATURE SINCE, AS REF A MAKES CLEAR, AFL-CIO NOT READY

FOR THIS. DO BELIEVE, HOWEVER, THAT IT IS DESIRABLE TO FIND WAYS TO INVOLVE LABOR IN OUR OVERALL USG ASSISTANCE EFFORT AS THIS IS ONLY WAY TO LEND SUBSTANCE TO OUR LABOR WORK HERE. PRESENTLY HAVE NO SUBSTANTIVE LABOR BUSINESS ON WHICH TO BASE A CONTINUING DIALOGUE WITH EGYPTIAN LABOR. BECAUSE OF REALITIES, HAVE REPEATEDLY HAD TO TURN DOWN EGYPTIAN LABOR REQUESTS FOR TRAINING AND ASSISTANCE. RESULT IS THAT EGYPTIAN LABOR HAS BECOME SKEPTICAL OF OUR INTENTIONS. POSITION BECOMING EMBARRASSING TO LRO AND TO HIS CONTACTS, WHO HAVE NOTHING TO SHOW FOR OPENING THEIR DOORS TO LRO. PLEASED TO NOTE FROM REF B NEW-FOUND DEPT OF LABOR AND AFL-CIO INTEREST IN A SOMEWHAT WIDER RANGE OF EGYPTIAN LABOR MATTERS THAN WAS PREVIOUSLY THE CASE, BUT TRUST THIS INTEREST WILL NOT PROVE TO BE SIMPLY COSMETIC. IF WE ARE SERIOUS ABOUT RECOGNIZING LABOR'S POSITION IN EGYPT AND GENUINELY WANT TO WORK WITH EGYPTIAN LABOR, WE MUST THINK IN TERMS OF SUBSTANTIVE PROGRAMS THAT MIGHT BE OFFERED TO DEMONSTRATE THAT INTEREST OF SOME EGYPTIAN LABOR ELEMENTS IN WORKING WITH US IS RECIPROCATED.

4. AMBASSADOR HAS SEEN THIS MESSAGE AND CONCURS.  
EILTS

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NNN

## Message Attributes

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**Capture Date:** 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
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**Concepts:** TRADE, UNION GOVERNMENT RELATIONS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
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**Decaption Date:** 22 May 2009  
**Decaption Note:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1977CAIRO15271  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** DG ALTERED  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
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**Office:** ACTION NEA  
**Original Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** ONLY, STADIS  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 2  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** ONLY, STADIS  
**Reference:** 77 STATE 215729, 77 STATE 217647  
**Retention:** 0  
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**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**SAS ID:** 1299612  
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**Subject:** EGYPTIAN-U.S. TRADE UNION RELATIONS NEA/RA FOR HOLLY FROM BROD  
**TAGS:** ELAB, EG, US  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
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**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
22 May 2009  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009